

REMARKS

By way of the foregoing amendments, claims 2-11, 14, 27 and 31-41 are currently pending.

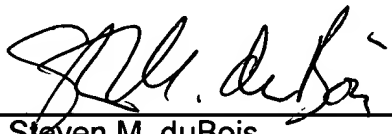
Applicants note that claim 30 is objected to be as being dependent upon the rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have rewritten claim 27 to include the subject matter of claims 29 and 30 which has been indicated as allowable. Likewise, Applicants have amended claim 31 to include the same subject matter. The remaining claims are all dependent from claims 27 and 31. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this application has been placed in immediate condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If, however, there are any issues which remain to be resolved, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned telephonically at the number provided below.

Applicants note the rejection of the remaining claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or § 103 over various documents. Applicants reserve the right to contest these rejections in a continuation application.

All of the objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (540) 361-1863.

Respectfully submitted,

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